

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 4 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 3 is amended.

Entry of the amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) does not present any additional claims; and (d) places the application in better condition for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendment is thus respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,226,018 to Nakanishi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nakanishi fails to disclose a method of manufacturing a thin-film magnetic head material comprising providing a detection element, an electrode, and a conductor; wherein the detection element is not disposed in the inter-row cutting section but disposed in each of the rows; and the electrode is not disposed in each of the rows but disposed in the inter-row cutting section, as recited in claim 3.

Instead, Nakanishi discloses in figures 1 and 2 a process of manufacturing a floating type thin-film magnetic head, including a thin magnetic film 8, electrodes 5, transducer 2, core blocks 1, conductors 6, air-bearing surface 3, and shallow groove 7.

Moreover, the Office Action asserts that the magnetic film 8, the electrode 5 and the conductor 6 of Nakanishi correspond to the detection element, the electrode, and the conductor of claim 3. The Office Action further asserts that the regions between the cut lines A (shown in figure 1) of Nakanishi are read as "inter-row cutting section". Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion.

Furthermore, even assuming arguendo that the above interpretation could be possible, Nakanishi does not satisfy all of the features of claim 3. If the claimed detection element, electrode and conductor are interpreted as above, it is possible that all of these components be disposed in the inter-row cutting section or in each of the rows of the head-to-be sections.

As discussed above, Nakanishi does not provide all of the features of the present invention. For example, Nakanishi fails to disclose that the detection element is not disposed in the inter-row cutting section but disposed in each of the rows, and that the electrode is not disposed in each of the rows but disposed in the inter-row cutting section.

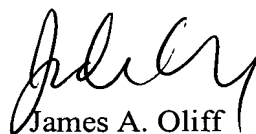
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 defines over the applied art. Furthermore, claim 4, which depends from claim 3, is likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the additional features it recites. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under §102 is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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